

**OPENING STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE VERNON J. EHLERS  
RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

***The Transfer of National Nanotechnology Initiative Research Outcomes for  
Commercial and Public Benefit***

March 11, 2008  
10:00am-12:00pm  
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Reauthorization of the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) is a prime opportunity for the Science and Technology Committee to continue to craft policies that encourage U.S. innovation and maintain our global competitiveness. We have invested more than eight billion federal dollars into the NNI since it was initiated in 2003. The reauthorization measure will be a very important piece of legislation, and deserves the full attention of this Subcommittee and full Committee.

There is still much to learn about perfecting nanomanufacturing processes. To those working in nanotechnology it is evident that there are many challenges unique to the nanomanufacturing supply chain. The conventional balance of basic and applied research and development may not be a good fit for nanomanufacturing because of the high capital investments and substantial fundamental research necessary to overcome obstacles to commercialization.

As we advance the reauthorization of the National Nanotechnology Initiative this question of appropriate balance must be carefully considered. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about their recommendations for investment priorities in the reauthorization process.